



Mayor Michael B. Coleman



HR CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the March, 2003 edition of HR Connections. As you are no doubt aware, since our last edition of this newsletter, the Department of Human Resources suffered the untimely and tragic loss of our friend and coworker Lisa Howard.

Lisa was a truly dedicated and gifted person. She was the consummate professional who was always giving of her time and her talents. Her volunteer activities at work, in her church and in her community visibly demonstrated her commitment to excellence in service.

Lisa was one of our Department's greatest assets and while she will be sorely missed, her spirit continues to live on within her children and in some measure within each of us in Human Resources. Her determination and fortitude continue to be a source of inspiration for all of us.

Preliminary steps have been taken to establish a college scholarship fund in support of the educational pursuits of Lisa's surviving minor daughter. Subsequent editions of HR Connection will provide you with further details regarding how City employees may participate in this fund.

As we embark upon Spring many of us prepare for spring cleaning. In addition to our spring cleaning chores, it is my hope and prayer that all of us as City employees will pause and reflect on how we utilize our time and talents and endeavor to do our very best to cultivate and deploy the talents with which we have been blessed. We are thankful, and I believe, far better off because Lisa Howard took the time to do so.

Chester C. Christie, Director, Human Resources

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Human Resources

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HR WEBSITES

Be sure to visit the Human Resources Internet and Intranet websites for the latest information on training opportunities, EEO, Labor Relations, Employee Benefits/Risk Mgmt, and Employee Resources

Internet
www.cityofcolumbus.org

Intranet
<http://Intranet/Agencies/HumanResources>

Black History Month celebration entertaining and educational



*City Attorney
Rick Pfeiffer reads
from a April 4, 1968
speech by
Robert F. Kennedy*

History came to life during the annual City of Columbus Black History Month program in February. The King Arts Complex hosted a capacity crowd for an uplifting evening of song, dance and dramatization. Featured guest artist, Steve R. Butler, and the 50-voice Columbus Select Men's Chorus, presented songs of struggle and triumph. Other stellar musical performances included Saxophonist Gene Walker and the "Puppets of Praise" from New Salem Baptist Church. A distinguished panel, including Columbus City Council member, Patsy Thomas; City Attorney, Rick Pfeiffer; Columbus Urban League Senior Vice President, Sandra Cephas; CMAGE President Carnell Felton; Morehouse Alumnus, Dr. Wilbur Weddington and State Representative Larry Price, 26th Ohio District, presented historical readings from the years 1860 - 1968.

NATIONAL TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY APRIL 24, 2003

All employees mentoring children must fill out a parental permission form. Check the Intranet next month or call the Department of HR at 645-7206 for more information.



TAX CHANGES FOR 2003

Mileage rate for 2002:
.365 per mile business
.13 Medical
.13 Moving

Deduction of up to \$3,000 of qualified higher education expenses
Exclusion from income of employer- provided educational expenses
Personal exemption increased to \$3,000.
Dependent child credit increased to \$600.

Important reminders
Always check calculations

Sign and date return

Recheck social security numbers

Parents or guardians of dependent children under 17 may be eligible for a \$600 credit
There is a lifetime learning credit and a hope credit for (post high school) education related expenses

Your City EAP is
confidential, free
and provides a
variety of services
to help you lead a
healthy life. Call
EAP at
645-6894

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To accomplish
great things we
must not only act
but also dream,
not only plan but
also believe
- Anatole

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Need your GED?

Citywide Training
can help you.

Call 645-3059

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TAX
websites
1040.com
IRS.gov

Whiteside wins Mayor's Award for "Courage under Fire," Carter-French for Mentoring the Next Generation



*Dan
Whiteside
accepts the
Mayor's
Award of
Excellence
from Mayor
Michael B.
Coleman*

Firefighter Dan Whiteside received the **2003 Humanitarian Award** during the annual City of Columbus Employee Recognition Ceremony. Whiteside, a 12-year veteran of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire, showed heroic courage during a September visit to his grandmother's home in Ashville, Ohio. During the visit, Whiteside's wife saw smoke and fire coming from the home of two elderly women. While family members called the local fire department, Whiteside entered the home and lead both women to safety. He returned with a fire extinguisher and began battling the blaze without fire gear or protective equipment. Whiteside held the fire at bay with a garden hose until the fire department arrived. Whiteside's immediate action and direct intervention helped lessen damage to the property and may have even helped to save a life.



*Halima
Carter-French
with Tanisha*

**I want it said of me by those who knew
me best, that I always plucked a thistle
and planted a flower where I thought a
flower would grow.**

Abraham Lincoln

V
For her impact on the lives of young people, Halima Carter-French of the Department of Technology, received the **2003 Community Service Award**. Carter-French volunteers with the Mentoring Student Athletes (MSA) Foundation, a chapter of the Urban League's Achievement Matters program. As Sunday School Leader for New Life Community Baptist Church, she travels for inner city missionary work in both Columbus and Philadelphia. Carter-French reviewed more than 50 student essays for application to the Tavis Smiley Youth to Leader Conference in 2002. When thirty of her students qualified for the spring Youth to Leader Conference in Chicago, Carter-French took vacation time to chaperone. She mentors many students and continues to share her heart, finances and time without hesitation.

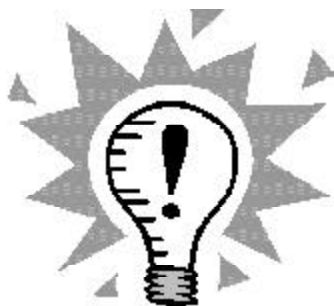
The Big 40!

*Juleann Jospheh
celebrates 40
years with the
City*



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The Exceptional Job Performance Award went to a team of employees from the Department of Public Service, Refuse Collection.

The Outstanding Service Delivery Award went to a group from the Department of Public Safety, Communications Field Section.



**Do You have an idea,
comment or suggestion for HR
Connections?**

**Would you like us to consider
your story for print?
If so, please send an e-mail to
jlerry@columbus.gov**

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Bill Payne

Electricity Receives Amp-Ohio Award

Congratulations to the Division of Electricity for receiving the 2002 Amp-Ohio, Hard Hat Safety Award. Bill Payne, a Division of Electricity Underground Cable Supervisor, won this award after being nominated by the Division's management team. Mr. Payne is a diligent, conscientious worker and team player who approaches his work with a safety-first attitude. In addition, bravo to the entire Division of Electricity for receiving the Amp-Ohio, Less than 1% Injury & Illness award for the Division 9 area.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

United HealthCare.....1-800-681-3849
Medical, Rx Drug, Pre-certification
Mail Order Rx Drug..... 1-800-681-3849
Nurseline.....1-877-365-7922
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield1-800-282-1730
Vision Service Plan 1-800-877-7195

CNA Life Insurance

Life: At work employees contact Division Payroll Department.

Terminating employees, call Risk Management to convert
within 31 days of terminating City employment

CobraServ.....1-800-790-9056

COBRA: Continuation Benefits

CareWorks.....1-888-899-1232

Workers' Compensation Managed Care Organization

Anthem Life

Short term disability. Complete forms through
Division payroll.

AFLAC.....614-761-1342

Pre-tax benefits. Dependent child care

Colonial Life.....614-882-9307

Voluntary insurance options

Employee Benefits/Risk Management.....614-645-8065

Deferred Compensation..... 1-877-644-6457

Citywide Training Hotline..... 614-645-7733

HR Connections

brought to you by

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